

## **ANIMAL HEALTH POLICY**

This Policy sets out the practices and procedures for adoption by the Dairy Holdings Limited (DHL) Group to apply across managed and lower order farms.

Where any farm operators have any queries in relation to the application of this Policy they should discuss these concerns with their Farm Supervisor in the first instance.

### **BACKGROUND**

As a large-scale dairy farming company with operations throughout Canterbury, North Otago and Southland, Dairy Holdings needs to ensure a consistent Animal Health Policy is adopted across the managed and lower order farms.

Adoption of a consistent policy will ensure that all farms utilise cost effective procedures and also focus on the areas necessary to ensure key decisions and preventative actions are taken at the appropriate time so profitable production is not adversely affected.

This policy therefore sets out the practices to be adopted for the general areas that will be encountered throughout the season.

### **ANIMAL REMEDY PRACTICES ADOPTED**

The following list sets out the recommended action and Policies to be adopted during the dairy season:

#### **Administration of trace elements**

DHL works with Agvance Ltd to formulate the correct trace element mix for the class of stock, and the time of the year. This uses the blood and liver biopsy results from all farms.

All farms receive their minerals bagged to match the number of animals on their farm. One bag of minerals for each day.

Usage of minerals is monitored, and supplies are refreshed on prearranged dates.

#### **Blood Tests**

One month to two weeks before mating, take bloods from 10 to 15 cows at random.

Once these results are available they should be discussed with the farm supervisor to determine the appropriate course of action to be taken before mating.

### **Liver Biopsies**

A selection of up to ten cows in late winter, or from culled cows being sent away for slaughter during the season should be selected for liver biopsies each year. Liver biopsies are to be performed to determine the selenium, copper, and boron status of the herd. Once these results are available they should be discussed with the farm supervisor to determine the appropriate course of action during the upcoming season.

### **Selenium**

Where Selenium is dealt with by fertiliser applications, or delivered through the water system, liver biopsies will determine if further action is required. The Selenium product to be used is as directed by the farm supervisor. Prior to calving cows may require an injection of either a short or long acting selenium to reduce the incidence of RFM's.

### **Copper**

Administration of copper should be kept to a minimum and generally will be based on copper sulphate being applied to the water supply. Any further action is only to be considered in conjunction with results of liver biopsies.

### **Magnesium Oxide and Cal Mag**

Magnesium is generally to be applied from pre-calving through until the end of the first cycle at mating. A general allowance for each farm is 10kg of Magnesium Chloride per cow.

### **Lice**

Lice treatments will only be considered on consultation with the farm supervisor and should generally not be required on mature stock.

### **Drench**

Drenching will only be considered on at risk animals for example poor condition heifers and immature stock and in all other instances should be discussed with the farm supervisor.

### **Rotavirus Vaccination**

As a general policy 10-20% of the herd should be identified for Rotavirus Vaccinations with the milk from these cows to be kept separate to be fed for the first calf feed in the rearing shed at 2 litres per calf. Where Rotavirus is a major historical problem on a farm this should be discussed further with the farm supervisor.

### **Dry Cow Therapy**

Blanket Dry Cow Therapy will be continued until it is no longer allowed. The formulation used may change from year-to-year.

### **Vet Visits**

Vet visits should be for emergencies or whenever there is a concern for either animal welfare or a lack of skill on farm to deal with the problem. When emergencies occur the decision to contact the Vet is to be made as early as possible. If difficulties are being encountered during calving over and above what is normally anticipated this should be discussed with your farm supervisor to determine what course of action should be taken.

### **Drug Purchases**

As a company with a large scale dairy herd every effort should be taken to ensure prescriptive drugs administration and use is closely monitored and that all cows are correctly and accurately identified. Purchases of prescriptive drugs should be discussed at the start of each season with your farm supervisor to determine what arrangements may exist with local veterinary practices.

Please note that the most effective means of reducing animal health costs and ensuring a top producing dairy herd throughout the season is to focus on early detection and early action. Early action particularly for mastitis and lameness can ensure that cows can either be maintained in production or maybe retained for future seasons.

Where you believe stock health is an ongoing problem on your farm, this should be raised with your farm supervisor who will be able to assist in comparing your practices with other company farms so the outcomes on other properties maybe considered.

### **SUMMARY**

In summary, the adoption of the above Animal Health Policy across the group is intended to refocus farm operators on cost effective practices.

With a large dairy cow herd the DHL Group is particularly exposed where ineffective practices are adopted on a large number of farms without a corresponding benefit. Accordingly, best practice in regard to the profitability of your farm is to be the first consideration.

Where you have any queries in relation to the practices on your property you should always discuss this in the first instance with your farm supervisor.